

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW LIZARD FROM PORTO RICO.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

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When finishing my "Herpetology of Porto Rico,"* in 1901, I had examined about 900 specimens from that little island, 510 of which were collected by Dr. Charles W. Richmond and myself during a two months' visit during which I paid special attention to the reptiles. There was consequently some reason for believing that the herpetological fauna might be exhausted, and that at least no conspicuous species would have escaped detection. It is true that Dr. Richmond and I discovered one on the very last day of our stay on the island, but that we regarded as positively the last novelty. Mr. Wetmore's discovery of a very distinct new species of lizard there consequently comes somewhat in the nature of a shock and illustrates once more the fortuitous character of reptile collecting. And yet, this very discovery might almost have been predicted on zoögeographical grounds. One of the distributional puzzles of the Antilles has been the occurrence of *Ameiva polops* on St. Croix, the southern island of the Virgin Island group, since its nearest, and in fact very close, relative, *Ameiva lineolata* was found in Hayti only. These two species form a somewhat isolated group among the other species of *Ameiva*, and it is therefore very gratifying to find a third species of this group represented on the island situated intermediate between the two other localities. I take great pleasure in naming it after its discoverer.

*Rep. U. S. Nat. Mus., (1902), 1901, pp. 549-721.

***Ameiva wetmorei* sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Eight rows of ventral plates; caudal scales oblique, smooth; three occipitals; three supraoculars; fronto-parietals united.

Habitat.—Porto Rico.

Type-specimens.—Cat. No. 49,731, U. S. National Museum; Guanica, Porto Rico, above Rio Loco, May 20, 1912; Alex. Wetmore, collector.

Description of type specimen.—Nostril between the two nasals; anterior nasals broadly in contact behind rostral; fronto-nasal broader than long, in contact with nasals, loreal and prefrontals; prefrontals pentagonal, broadly in contact; frontal pentagonal, in contact with first and second supraoculars, not touching the third, a single, hexagonal fronto-parietal broadly in contact with third and very narrowly with second supraocular; three occipitals, the outer two very large, squarish, the median one long and narrow, almost rectangular; five superciliaries; three supraoculars, the first in contact with first superciliary, the others separated from the superciliaries by a single row of fine granules; last supraocular in contact with outer occipital; loreal undivided; seven supralabials, first in contact with posterior nasal only, second with posterior nasal and loreal, third largest, fifth and sixth in contact with a long subocular; temples with small, flat, irregular scales; mental followed by a large, unpaired postmental; six large infralabials, third largest; four pairs of chin-shields, first pair in contact, second pair half separated by granules of chin; between infralabials and chin-shields posteriorly a single line of flat scales, the two posterior ones large, the anterior small, not reaching first pair of chin-shields; chin and throat covered with small scales or granules diminishing in size posteriorly; mesophthyeium with a median patch of enlarged scales, the larger ones about four times the size of the chin granules; back, sides, and upper surface of limbs covered with granules which are slightly enlarged into small hexagonal scales on the median line of the back; underside of body with eight longitudinal and thirty-five transverse rows of rectangular plates, the outer row less than one-half the size of the next one; one large preanal plate, preceded by one much smaller, and this one by two still smaller placed transversely; on the lower arm two rows of large antebrachials, separated from the much smaller single row of brachials by small scales, on the lower edge of the upper arm a single series of enlarged plates; underside of thigh covered with two series of large scales or plates and three smaller ones; thirteen or fourteen femoral pores; underside of tibia covered entirely across by three plates, of which the upper is the largest and larger than the other two together; upper side of wrist with three series of enlarged plates; fifth (outer) toe extending far beyond the first (inner) almost to the claw of the second; tail covered with smooth scales in rings, the scales being oblique with parallel sides, except the median row, which is wedge-shaped; about twenty-two scales in the fifteenth ring from the base. Coloration (in alcohol) above dark brownish olive with seven distinct greenish white longitudinal lines, the median one somewhat wider than the others and starting from the tip of the snout while the others originate in front of the eye, and continuing some distance

on the tail except the outer row, which terminates in the groin; upper side of limbs also dark olive brown with very distinct round greenish-white spots; underside greenish white darkening on tail. Mr. Wetmore describes the tail of the living animal as varying from brilliant emerald green to grayish blue according to the light, and the underside as dull clay red.

Dimensions.

| | <i>mm.</i> |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Total length | 148 |
| Snout to vent | 47 |
| Tail | 101 |
| Snout to ear | 11 |
| Width of head | 7 |
| Fore leg from axilla | 14 |
| Hind leg from groin | 29 |
| Outer toe without claw | 5.5 |
| Inner toe without claw | 3 |